

CLAIMS

1) A bearing element (1; 100; 200) for stringed musical instruments (S_1 ; S_2 ; S_3) comprising a mainly vertically arranged frame (2; 101; 201) suitable for being placed on a bearing surface (A_1 ; A_2 ; A_3) and provided with support means (3; 102; 202) defining a housing (4) able to receive the body (C_1 ; C_2 ; C_3) of said instrument (S_1 ; S_2 ; S_3), **characterized in that** each of said support means (3; 102; 202) comprises a couple of mutually opposed jaws (5, 6; 103, 104) joined together through regulation means (7) able to modify in a continuous way the distance between said jaws (5, 6; 103, 104).

2) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 1) **characterized in that** each of said jaws (5, 6; 103, 104) is slidingly coupled to said support means (3; 102; 202).

3) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 1) **characterized in that** each of said support means (3; 102; 202) comprises an arm (8, 9; 106, 107; 203, 204) protruding from said frame (2; 101; 201) to which it is coupled.

4) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 3) **characterized in that** said arm (8, 9; 106, 107; 203, 204) comprises a longitudinal element joined to said frame (2; 101; 201) by first joint means (10).

5) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 1) **characterized in that** each of said jaws (5, 6; 103, 104) comprises a shaped body which defines a concave surface (5a, 6a) bounding on one side said housing (4).

6) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 3) **characterized in that** said regulation means (7) comprise a linear guide (11) obtained on the upper surface (8a) of said arm (8, 9; 106, 107; 203, 204), and a linear counter-guide (12) obtained on the lower surface (6b) of each of said jaws (5, 6; 103, 104) and inserted in said linear guide (11).

7) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 6) **characterized in that** said regulation means (7) further comprise a pin (13), applied on a first of said jaws (5, 6; 103, 104), which is slidingly inserted in a blind hole (14) obtained in a second of said jaws (5, 6; 103, 104) opposed to said first jaw.

8) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 6) **characterized in that** said linear guide (11) has a substantially C-shaped

transversal sectional profile.

9) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 6) **characterized in that** said linear counter-guide (12) has a substantially T-shaped transversal sectional profile.

5 10) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 4) **characterized in that** said first joint means (10) comprise a clasp (15; 108) snap-coupled with said frame (2; 101; 201).

10 11) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 10) **characterized in that** said arm (8, 9; 106, 107; 203, 204) is provided at one end (8b) with a pin (16) inserted in a through hole (17) obtained in said clasp (15; 108).

15 12) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 11) **characterized in that** from said pin (16) is protruding a first couple of mutually opposed tangs (18, 19), snap-disposed against a stubbed portion made in the internal wall of said through hole (17), to avoid the accidental separation of said arm (8, 9; 106, 107; 203, 204) from said clasp (15; 108).

20 13) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 11) **characterized in that** each of said jaws (5, 6; 103, 104) is arranged against said body (C₁; C₂; C₃) of said instrument (S₁; S₂; S₃) by rotating around the rotation axis (Z) determined by said pin (16) to stably ensure said musical instrument (S₁; S₂; S₃) to said frame (2; 101; 201).

 14) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 10) **characterized in that** said frame (2; 101; 201) consists of two longitudinal bars (20, 21; 206, 207) mutually connected by joint means (22).

25 15) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 14) **characterized in that** each of said longitudinal bars (20, 21; 206, 207) is provided with a plurality of through holes (23; 205) which are arranged on at least a length portion of each of said longitudinal bars (20, 21; 206, 207), each of them being able to receive the snap-inserted clasp (15; 108).

30 16) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 14) **characterized in that** said joint means (22) comprise a couple of mutually complementary profiled appendixes (24, 25), each of them provided on a second end (20b, 21b) of the comb-shaped longitudinal bars (20, 21; 206, 207) respectively, to mutually interpenetrate.

35 17) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 16)

characterized in that each of said profiled appendixes (24, 25) comprises a pin (26, 27) placed between two contiguous elements (30, 31, 32, 33) of said comb, which is slidingly coupled with a groove (28, 29) made on the lateral surface of an element (30, 31, 32, 33) of said comb belonging to the other of
5 said profiled appendixes (24, 25).

18) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 17)
characterized in that said groove (28, 29) comprises:

- a substantially linear portion (29a) extending from the lateral edge (24a) to the central portion (24b) of each of said profiled appendixes (24, 25), in
10 which said pin (26, 27) for coupling said longitudinal bars (20, 21; 206, 207) slides;
- an enlarged section (29b) of substantially circular shape, made in said central portion (24b) of each of said profiled appendixes (24, 25), inside which said pin (26, 27) rotates to allow the mutual opening of said
15 longitudinal bars (20, 21; 206, 207) according to an angle (β) substantially comprised from 0° and 90°.

19) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 18)
characterized in that said enlarged section (29b) is provided with a step (34) made along a peripheral portion (129b) of said enlarged section (29b).

20) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 19)
characterized in that said step (34) describes an arc of a circumference substantially variable from 0° and 90° and comprised between two counterpart walls (35, 36).

21) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 19)
25 **characterized in that** said step (34) is provided with a plurality of ribs (37) to which is coupled a stop element (38), placed adjacent to said pin (27) belonging to the opposite profiled appendix (25), in order to block in different positions the opening between said longitudinal bars (20, 21; 206, 207).

22) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 14)
30 **characterized in that** each of said longitudinal bars (20, 21; 206, 207) leans on a substantially horizontally arranged base (39, 40) suitable for being put in contact with said bearing surface (A_1 ; A_2 ; A_3), to which is connected by second joint means (41).

23) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 22)
35 **characterized in that** said second joint means (41) comprise a second couple

of mutually opposed tangs (42, 43) placed at the first end (20a, 21a) of each of said longitudinal bars (20, 21; 206, 207), which are snap-coupled in a wall (44a) made in a cavity (44) present in the intermediate portion (40a) of said base (39, 40).

5 24) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 22 **characterized in that** each of said longitudinal bars (20, 21; 206, 207) is arranged according to a longitudinal axis (Y') which defines an acute angle (α) with a vertical reference axis (Y), for the inclined support of said instrument (S₁; S₂; S₃) on said frame (2; 101; 201).

10 25) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 22 **characterized in that** said base (39, 40) is provided with profiled feet (48, 49) arranged at the opposite ends (40b, 40c) of said base (39, 40) for granting a correct and stable support of said frame (2; 101; 201) on said bearing surface (A₁; A₂; A₃).

15 26) The bearing element (1; 100; 200) according to claim 1 **characterized in that** said frame (2; 101; 201) and said support means (3; 102; 202) are made of plastic material.

20 27) The bearing element substantially according to what described and illustrated.

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